THE OREDIGGER NEWSPAPER

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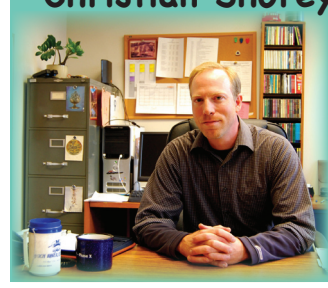

Faculty Spotlight : Christian Shorey

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Geek of the Week

"My best average is just under 15 seconds for a standard 3x3x3 cube."

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Minds at Mines

How was Homecoming? - Page 8

Non - Geek of the Week

"I rode my tricycle off the roof of our pump house into one of those little kiddy pools." *- Page 7*

Center for Hydrate Research: Beyond fossil fuels

Alec Westerman
Staff Writer

"It really focuses on energy supplies," summarized Professor E. Dendy Sloan, Director of the Center for Hydrate Research (CHR). The CHR works with hydrates, which are cage-like structures that water molecules form that enclose anything from methane to hydrogen.

"Since 1934 we've been concerned with flow assurance," said Sloan. The principle application of the CHR's work can be seen in oil and gas pipelines where hydrates can form, blocking the flow of oil or gas. According to Professor Amadeu Sum, co-director of CHR, "hydrates are the number one flow assurance problem for the oil and gas industry."

In response to this problem, the CHR discovered of one of the most widely used kinetic hydrate inhibitors applied by industry for hydrate mitigation. Present research on this topic centers on taking measurements to formulate a model. This information will then be applied toward finding more effective chemicals.

Flow assurance is not the only place where hydrate research and the oil and gas industry meet. They also converge in geomechanical stability. Whenever natural hydrates interact with oil drilling, it is possible that the hydrates will undergo changes that destabilize the borehole. This is what the CHR is working to prevent.

In addition to assisting oil and gas exploration, the CHR is looking for ways to move beyond fossil fuels. Research is being conducted around harvesting methane from natural hydrate deposits, which exist in abundance in permafrost and marine environments. The energy locked away in these hydrate stores amounts to twice that which was once locked away in fossil fuel deposits. Pilot tests have already successfully extracted methane.

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Dr. Sloan shows off a hydrate model.

But that does not mean research in this area is complete. "It is not just a recovery issue," said Sum. He cited geological and ecological concerns. He went on to clarify that methane is a worse greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. However, Professor Carolyn Koh, co-director of CHR, indicated that it might be possible to replace the extracted methane with carbon dioxide so as to offset the pollution generated. "It becomes a very complex problem," said Sum.

For future fuels, research is being conducted towards storing molecular hydrogen in hydrate cages for use in fuel cells. Eventually, the process of using the hydrogen inside the cages will likely be integrated into a hybrid technology in which not only the hydrogen is used but also the hydrogen from the water composing the hydrates. "It is very exploratory and very fundamental science," said Sum.

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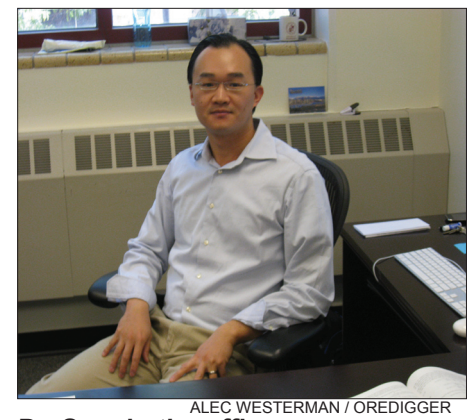
Dr. Koh at the center.

"What's interesting about this area is that it requires multidisciplinary expertise," said Koh. The CHR has prospered since over a period of over twenty years, it has received support from a large number of energy/chemical companies (eleven currently), federal agencies, and private organizations. It holds four patents, has published four books and released over 200 publications. Altogether, it brings in about $1.3 million per year for research expenditure. Thirty-two people work in the program. It is headed by Professor Sloan, Professor Koh, and Professor Sum, all in the Chemical Engineering department. The other faculty involved with the center include Professors Jennifer Ashoff (GE), Mason Dikstra (GE), Mike Boatzle (GP), Monica Prasad (PE), Ning Lu (EN), David Wu (CE/CH) and Yushu Wu (PE). The CHR attracts attention from a variety of majors. "The research in the gas hydrates, although a very focused problem, involves complex issues that bring together interdisciplinary expertise" said Professor Sum.



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Dr. Sum in the office.

An interesting result of this work will be an international hydrate database, accessible via smart phone for free data to any interested party.

Faculty discuss first year life for students

Zach Boerner
Copy Editor

This past Tuesday, in a room usually reserved for discussions on geology, a different kind of bedrock was discussed, that of the freshman year of college.

The discussion was titled "The First Year Project – An Academic Affairs/Student Life Initiative to create excellence in the first year." About 70 faculty and staff gathered in Berthoud Hall to discuss how to improve the first year for incoming students. The discussion included presentations by various members of the administration and faculty and featured Dr. Betsy Barefoot, Co-Director of the Policy Center on the First Year of College, as a guest-speaker.

Wendy Harrison, Associate Provost of Academic Affairs, began with a few remarks thanking all the people who attended before turning it over to Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students Harold Cheuvront. Dean Cheuvront gave a brief history of the first-year programs at Mines while making note of the graduation rate and how it has changed over the years. He also summarized the role of improving the first year for students, which is to get the graduation rate to 74%, up from last year's graduation rate of 66%.

Harrison then briefly spoke again, pointing out that the conference was merely an opportunity for knowledge gathering and a way to plan the route before finishing that open discussion was encouraged.

After Harrison's parting remarks, President M.W. "Bill" Scoggins gave a brief speech on why the first year is so important to students and how faculty and staff must work together to reach out to students. He then explained his vision of a "residential campus." Scoggins hopes to have a higher percentage of students living on campus, bringing the campus together as a community.

After Scoggins finished, the guest speaker, Doctor Betsy Barefoot, came forward to "acknowledge the strengths [of the programs] and determine what can be done better." However, Dr. Barefoot acknowledged that there are no "magic bullets" and that no matter what decisions that are going to be made, much teamwork and effort on the part of the faculty and staff will be required.

One of the first things Dr. Barefoot said was needed was a definition for first year experiences. She defined the first year experiences as "everything that happens to new students," including mundane components as well as the significant. Because of this, "No single person, department or unit can improve the first year alone."

Since it is such a collaborative process, Dr. Barefoot provided a 9-part model for first year excellence. It involves such steps as making sure that the transition for the students is a good one to continuously assessing programs for improvement.

Dr. Barefoot then presented the quote, "We ask our students to take risks, to grow, to think about their life purpose, to be transformed. We can ask no less of ourselves." On that note, Dr. Barefoot concluded her presentation by pointing out that student expectations and faculty expectations tend to be different.

After a brief coffee break, the conference continued with a presentation by Heather Boyd on "Understanding our first year student environment." Boyd's numbers showed that over the past few years, the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) application pool has increased dramatically and the school has accepted more and more students. Because of the larger pool and more applicants to choose from, Admissions has the goal to give a clearer picture of CSM to incoming students and to enhance the diversity of CSM.

Following Boyd, Dean of Faculty Barbara Olds gave a presentation on NSSE, the National Survey of Student Engagement, affectionately called "Nessy." CSM has data from 2003 and 2006, when both the incoming freshman and outgoing seniors were given the survey to take, and the data was compared against other similar schools. The data showed that while CSM may outperform other schools in terms of scholastic ability, CSM still needs to improve interactions between faculty and students.

The third presentation was given by Dean Cheuvront on new developments in student life. Cheuvront began by breaking down the building budget over the past 12 years. Out of the $75 million that was spent, a third of that went to the Student Recreation Center, while the rest went to the renovation of the traditional halls, the building of Mines Park, the building of three new sorority houses and one new fraternity house, and the renovation of the Student Center.

Cheuvront then focused on the future. Within the next three months, CSM hopes to raise enough money through the bond market to build three new residence halls to house roughly 250-300 students. It's estimated to be a $25 million project and the halls are expected to be opened by August 1, 2010. The next project after that is another renovation to the Student Center. The space will be sorely needed in the next few years if enrollment increases. CSM hopes to tear down Randall Hall and extend the Student Center into the area vacated. Cheuvront finished by stating that all of this will be required to begin talking about a residential campus.

After the first three presentations, questions were raised, including worries about space constraints for expansion, discrepancies in NSSE, and thoughts about why CSM administration thinks that 2/3 of the students want to live on campus. None of the issues were discussed, but it was a starting point to begin breaking down into smaller groups at a later date.

When the group discussion ended, three more presentations were given, the first by Tom Boyd on the core curriculum. Boyd began by stating that the goals of the core curriculum are to provide a broad educational foundation while giving an opportunity to explore various majors programs. Guided by these goals, a committee was formed in 2006 to discuss how to change the core curriculum to better suit those needs.

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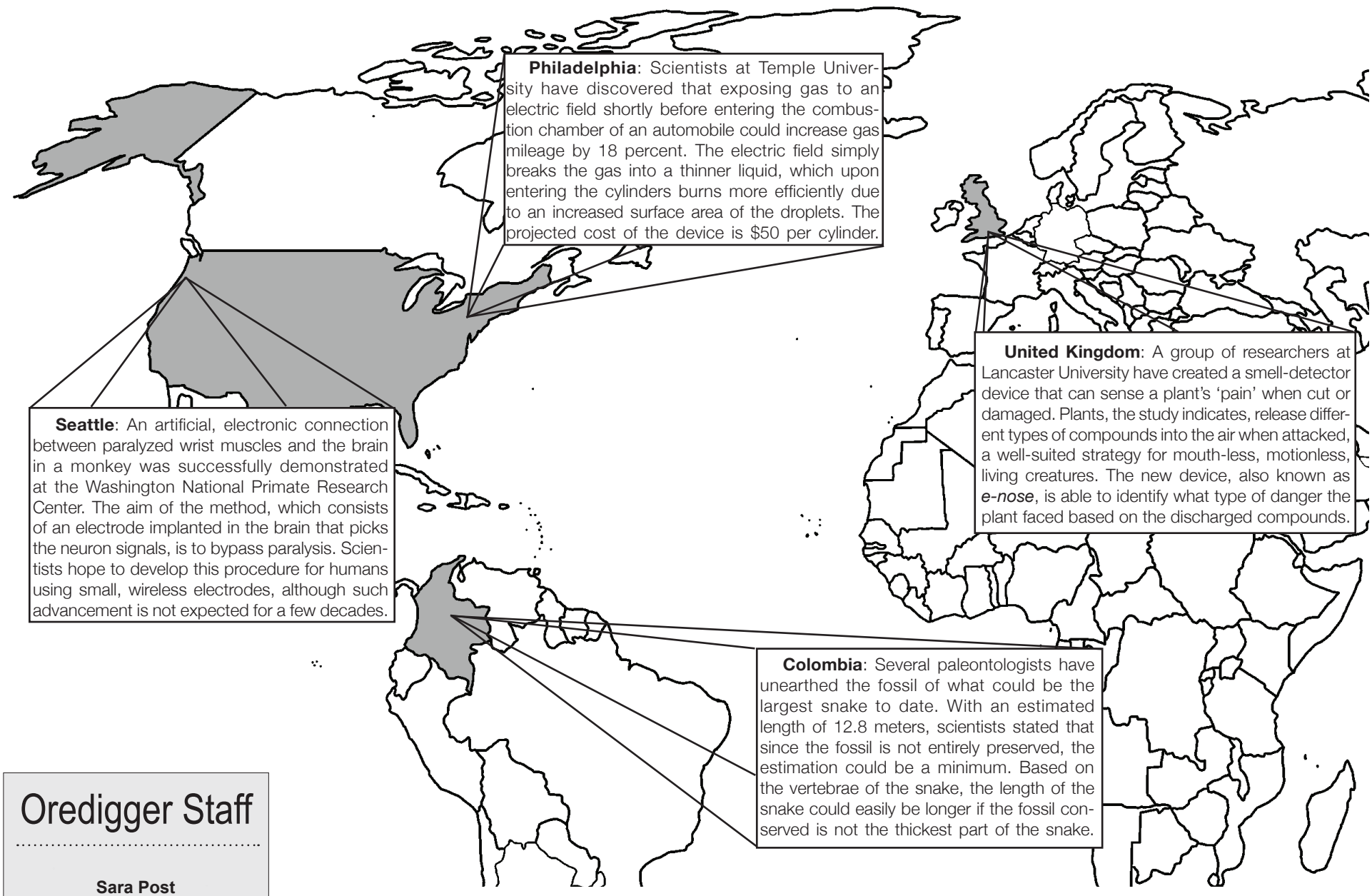
Scientific discoveries this week

Abdullah Ahmed, Asst. Business Manager



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Headlines from around the world

Emily Trudell, Staff Writer

Casey Anthony, mother of **Caylee**, the three year old girl who has been missing since early this summer, has been charged with the first-degree murder of the child, after four months of searching produced no sign of Caylee's body.

A spokesperson for the singer **Madonna** has confirmed that the star and her husband of eight years, **Guy Richie,** will be getting a divorce.

The nation of **Myanmar** has accumulated an estimated **175 million** dollars over the last two weeks from a 13 day auction selling gemstones, pearls and jade to businessmen from China, Japan, Thailand and Canada. The United States has a ban on the import of gems from Myanmar, and was not present.

NASA officials are working to repair the **Hubble Telescope**, which stopped sending photographs back to Earth three weeks ago.

Presidential candidates **Barack Obama** and **John McCain** finished up the last of their debates last Wednesday, highlighting healthcare, public schooling and the economy.

Desperate Housewives star **Gale Harold**, who plays Teri Hatcher's boyfriend in the popular television show, was injured in a motorcycle accident and remains in critical condition.

North Korea began disabling its nuclear program and allowed for surveillance of United States officials, after banning U.N. inspectors from their plants last month.

Social Security benefits have increased by 5.8%, an average of $63 extra for the typical retired person receiving Social Security payments.

Three Shiite worshipers were killed Friday when a bomb exploded outside of a mosque near Baghdad.

United States military officials announced that coalition forces had killed one of Al Qaeda's senior leaders, **Abu Qaswarah**, while on a mission in Mosul, Iraq, on October 5.

NASA prepared to launch the **Interstellar Boundary Explorer,** or Ibex, probe that will embark on a two year mission in order to gain more understanding of the far edges of the solar system, and measure the solar wind particles given off by the sun.

Representative Tim Mahoney, a Democrat from Florida running for re-election, admitted to having multiple affairs when he gave a public apology last week to his constituents and family.

Temperatures in the **Arctic Ocean** have reached record highs while also reaching a record low in salt content, as ice in the area has receded, according to a recently released study compiled by nearly fifty scientists.

Millvina Dean, the last living survivor of the Titanic, is selling relics from the tragic sinking of the ship in order to pay for her nursing home fees. Dean was only two months old when the Titanic sank in 1912.

Open discussion encourages solutions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The committee made recommendations about changes that should be made to the curriculum, but unfortunately, the proposal died in the Undergraduate Council and the Faculty Senate chose not to override their decision. The committee determined that it was rejected because departments did not want courses removed on principle and that a reshuffling of courses might have an impact on departmental resources. A core curriculum review was determined to still be needed, but without administrative support, the discussion cannot go forward.

> We ask our students to take risks, to grow, to think about their life purpose, to be transformed. We can ask no less of ourselves.

The fifth presentation was given by Doctor Chet Van Tyne on the "Connections" program that was tried a few years ago. Dr. Van Tyne discussed the concept of clustering courses and students together in such a way as to form learning communities. When this was previously tried, there was a significant effect on student retention. It was determined that mentoring made a significant difference, that students who felt like they belonged were more likely to persist in their education, and that the content of a first year program was not as important as the personal contact.

Doctor John Humphrey and Director of Student Development and Academic Services Ron Brummett gave the final presentation, "Academic Advising in the First Year." Brummett mentioned that, "Next to quality of instruction, academic advising is the next most important area." It was pointed out that the schools that had first year courses had students that performed significantly better than schools that did not. Humphrey concluded that the academic faculty should be more engaged with the advising of students.

After the last three presentations, another group discussion ensued, raising such issues as the disconnect between faculty and tenured track, the involvement of the extended community in the review of curriculum and how to get students to talk more with advisors.

Dr. Barefoot then addressed some of the questions raised, noting that the most important aspect of everything fitting together is the rewards system. She said that the faculty needs to feel that they have an incentive to participate in the first year programs. She also said that the faculty should volunteer for the programs instead of being required, since the faculty might resent being forced to participate.

The discussion then concluded for lunch before splitting into smaller focus groups that would concentrate on many of the issues raised in the discussions.

Harrison, who helped organize the conference, felt that the discussion was productive, partly because of the large turnout of the faculty. She said that it was a good chance to "hear the president's view on a residential campus," as well as a good opportunity "to get a group of diverse individuals to talk about the first year."

The conference was just the first step towards improving the first year on campus, and Harrison hopes that towards the end of the semester to the beginning of the next, smaller groups can be formed to focus on details and how to implement many of the ideas discussed at the conference.

MME Seminar:

Steelmaking gets a boost

Amanda Rock
Staff Writer

Recent progress has been made in the production of steel plating used for ship hull structures. Dr. Shiro Imai, graduate of the University of Tokyo and current employee of ABS Technology gave detailed this topic in his Thursday lecture to the Metallurgical and Materials Engineering (MME) department. Dr. Imai, who has a history of working with the shipyard steel industry, spent the majority of his talk describing the advantages and characteristics of a new steelmaking process known as Thermomechanical Control Process (TMCP), which produces better steel than other techniques.

> The TMCP steel's resistance to corrosion means a lifespan that makes it look even better as a product

The technology was originally developed in Japan in the 1970's. "We have optimized the chemical composition," Dr. Imai explained, which gives the TMCP steel higher strength with a lower carbon equivalent. "There are microstructural changes through the TMCP process."

Dr. Imai went on to say the changes made to traditional steel have resulted in a material that has some excellent properties: superior toughness, lower "hardenability," and better "weldability." The main advantage of TMCP steel, Dr. Imai explained, is its strength. "If we use a big container carrier we must use a thicker plate. But if we increase the strength, we can reduce the thickness," because TMCP steel thicknesses are significantly lower than traditionally fabricated steel.

According to Imai, this thinner, finer-grained variety of steel also has some advantages when it comes to lifespan. "We've changed the chemistry a little bit in the steel to reduce corrosion," he said. "It takes about twice as long now. We are testing the new steel with Japanese ship owners, resulting in fewer pits [from corrosion] of shallower depth." The TMCP steel's resistance to corrosion means a lifespan that makes it look even better as a product. Additionally, ship production with the steel is relatively faster.

Dr. Imai added an environmental incentive to the list of technical advantages. Apparently the material's resistance to corrosion makes paint and other polluting coatings unnecessary.

Dr. Imai insists TMCP steel is changing the face of shipbuilding in Asia. He did not, however, discuss cost of production or other economic concerns, instead focusing on the metallurgical and chemical advances that have been made over the past thirty years since TMCP was invented.

LILY GIDDINGS / OREDIGGER

Executive Lecture Series

Greg Davies
Staff Writer

Andrew Swiger, president of ExxonMobil's Gas and Power Marketing Company, recently addressed Colorado School of Mines (CSM) students as the first speaker in the Mines 2008 Executive Lecture Series. Swiger graduated from CSM in 1978 with a degree in petroleum engineering and has since worked for ExxonMobil in a number of positions located around the world.

Swiger's speech dealt with the future of the energy industry, specifically focusing on the role natural gas will play in the next quarter century. According to ExxonMobil's predictions, "Overall growth (in energy consumption) to the year 2030 is likely to average 1.3% per year."

Swiger continued by mentioning that consumption of "natural gas is likely to grow [by] 1.8% per year." By comparison, consumption of renewable energy sources are expected to grow 1.5% per year, oil by 1.2% per year, and coal by only .9% per year. Growth in demand for natural gas is expected to be highest in Asia, which is developing rapidly, whereas developed areas such as North America and Europe will have lower increase in demand. "Looking ahead, every major demand region in the world will demand increased imports of liquid natural gas," said Swiger.

Swiger went on to speak about coal. Coal is currently highly competitive, as "costs average just over a nickel per kilowatt-hour." Because of this, coal currently supplies about 50% of the country's electric power while natural gas supplies about 17%. Natural gas also has certain advantages, including "high efficiency as well as low greenhouse gas emissions."

Because of increased demand for natural gas, the industry will face major challenges. "Looking ahead, every major region in the world will demand increased imports of liquefied natural gas," Swiger said. For example, by 2030, "America's demand is expected to grow tenfold."

In order to address increases in demand, ExxonMobil is engaged in upgrading the size of production facilities, including larger liquefaction plants, larger ships and larger receiving terminals. "Each of these advances in economies of scale has resulted in significantly lower production and distribution costs," Swiger said. ExxonMobil's natural gas operations place special emphasis on Qatar, which is the largest exporter of liquefied natural gas in the world. Developments by ExxonMobil are expected to "…Double its capacity by 2010," said Swiger.

Swiger then talked about the need to address challenges of diminishing natural gas supplies by describing some of Exxonmobil's unconventional types of natural gas. These include tight gas, which is gas trapped in impermeable underground formations, as well as coalbed methane and shale gas. Swiger stated that as natural gas production declines, "It will take more and more unconventional wells to offset production decline." One example of tight gas production is Piceance Basin in Colorado. In the case of the Piceance Basin, the reservoirs will not flow without stimulation. This is why ExxonMobil is using specialized technology such as Fast Drilling and Just-in-Time Perforation. "ExxonMobil is continuing to change the landscape of unconventional technology," Swiger stated.

Swiger concluded his speech by talking about what primary enablers will be necessary for continued increases in production. These included access for responsible development, technological advances, operational excellence and a supportive market environment. However, as Swiger pointed out, a supportive market environment is "Out of the control of any producer." Growth in liquefied natural gas will be necessary to meet increasing global demand, while growth in unconventional production will be needed to offset the decline in conventional gas production. Also, the industry will require a rapid transfer of technology and a significant amount of new investment in order to meet upcoming challenges.

STUDENTS

YOUR STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT, KEVIN DUFFY, INVITES YOU TO THE FOURTH ASCSM MEETING OF THE YEAR.

ASCSM Welcomes Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Michael Nyikos, to our next Student Government meeting on October 23 at 7 PM in Student Center Ballrooms A and B.

Students: Come hear Dr. Nyikos speak about school policies and answer your questions.

$25 gift card raffled for the audience at each meeting.

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The way we live

David Appelhans
Director of Resdence Halls at Mines Park

Community of the Month: Morgan Third

This floor is a floor that is highly active and attends all the RHA meetings. The girls always try to get involved and have fun, whether its right there on their floor or somewhere else on campus. The floor can be best described as "close-knit" because they have made their own programs, created a facebook group and are always having a great time. Activities include a floor rave or even getting the guy's floors involved. A well deserved award.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY DAVID APPELHANS

Oredigger of the Month: Kenton Seward

Kenton is one of the brightest freshmen around. As a freshmen, he has passed out of Chemistry 1 and 2 along with Calculus 1 and 2. And even if he is not in any of these classes, he is always willing to make time and place his things aside to help anyone with homework or questions they have. But not only does he love helping others, but he is also a fantastic student who causes absolutely no problems and is very enjoyable to be around with.

RA of the Month: Hazwani Romeli

Combining Hazwani's awesome personality with her RA skills makes her a "fantastic RA!" She has already put on 5 programs for her floor, achieving participation from the majority. Apart from making programs, she even leaves her comfort zone just to make the programs more fun. Even students from other floors know who Romeli is and absolutely love her! If you ask any resident on her floor who their resident is, "they are very excited to say Haz and proceed to why she is the best RA ever."

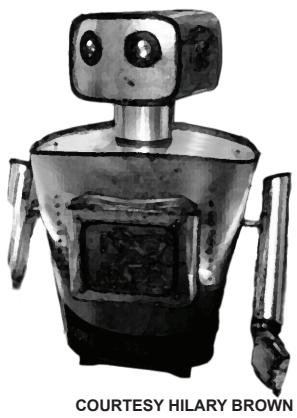
CSM robotics club

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

According to their website, the main purpose of the CSM Robotics Club is to "provide a place where people with interests in robotics can meet and work on robotic" endeavors. Having recently received $14,000 from the recent budget reallocation, the club is certainly well prepared to achieve this goal.

Club Vice President of Outreach Andy Suderman has been involved with CSM Robotics for a year. According to Suderman, "the club gives a number of opportunities to [its members]." Since joining the club, Suderman has learned a number of skills which he would have had a more difficult time learning without the club. These include "a large amount of knowledge related to mechanical and electrical engineering, such as LabView programming, advanced 3D modeling," as well as training in Solidworks. Club Secretary Sarah Le agrees. "I've picked up skills I would never have learned in any class or field session here at Mines." Le has more reasons why she enjoys being in the club. "I've met great people… and I feel more involved with what I love."

Although being a Robotics Club member involves learning about the technology behind robotics, there are other aspects as well. For example, there is an outreach program dedicated to elementary and high school students. Aspects of this program are the NXT Toolkit Curriculum and the FIRST LEGO League Qualifier. "The NXT Toolkit Curriculum is a curriculum that teachers could use to teach middle school students to adults LabVIEW by using the NXT Toolkit for LabVIEW and a LEGO® NXT Mindstorms Education Kit," explained Le. "FIRST LEGO League is a robotics competition for 3rd Grade students to 9th Grade students, which uses



COURTESY HILARY BROWN

the LEGO® NXT Mindstorms kit instead of metal parts." Also in this vein, CSM Robotics is working on starting a FIRST Technical Challenge program in Colorado. "FIRST Technical Challenge is the program that comes after FIRST LEGO League and before FIRST Robotics Competition. It bridges the gap between using LEGOs to build robots and using actual metal parts," Le said.

Anyone who wants to join CSM Robotics is free to do so. According to Suderman, "aside from multiple Mechanical Engineers and Electrical Engineers, we have several Humanitarian Engineers, a Chemical Engineer, and various others." They meet every Wednesday in BB303 at 7 PM. Meetings often include guest speakers, who are either faculty or in industry and speak on topics related to the day's meeting. The benefits of joining the club are numerous. Aside from working with others who are interested in Robotics, "we have a lot of projects that reward EPICS and EPICS II credit as well as the training that we do for projects, such as LabVIEW and SolidWorks, which will help later if their major is, for example, Mechanical Engineer," Le explained.

On November 9th, the club is hosting the FIRST Lego League qualifier, for which they need a large amount of volunteers. Anyone interested should contact Andy Suderman at asuderma@mines.edu or Sarah Le at sale@mines.edu

CSM Public Safety policies

Autumn Triesch
Staff Writer

You walk up to your car after class and under your windshield wiper is an orange envelope. You open the envelope and pull out a parking ticket.

"I was pissed. I had just finished dinner and I got a parking ticket," said CSM student Trevor Buckels.

Students employed by public safety write parking tickets at Mines. The eligibility for this position relies on your previous criminal and driving record. It is a four-page application.

"There are three different jobs a student can apply for at public safety. It is all the same application. The student just has to meet the minimum requirements. It is not a lot. We train the employees for the job. The people at the front desk learn customer service. The students who write tickets train with the officers. We give them a list of different levels of tolerance of the tickets," said Nan Braddock, of the CSM Police department.

> "The person at the front desk was impolite and rude when I pointed out that fact, they told me that it had changed."

The application is available online via the public safety website, when jobs are available. All employees for these jobs have to be CSM students. The jobs available are a Community Service Officer, cadet or parking monitor.

The duties of the parking monitor include writing parking tickets for any car that is in violation of the 10.8 vehicle operation and parking policy section four and five. This includes parking in a 'no parking' area, blocking access, parking in a reserved space and not having the proper permit.

After a parking ticket is received, a person has up to 15 days to appeal the ticket.

"I went in a few days after I got the ticket to get a form. I simply pointed out to them that I was parked in a freshman lot when I received a ticket and showed her on my Brunton. The person at the front desk was impolite and rude when I pointed out that fact, they told me that it had changed," said Buckles.

Once the appeal is turned in, it goes to the student who wrote the ticket. They then make a "factual written statement as to the reason for the citation."

"I wrote my statement and took it back to public safety. I do not know anything until I get a notice in the mail. It is supposed to arrive about two weeks after the date I took it to public safety. I do not get to know anything with what is happening about my ticket until then," said Buckels.

Once both the ticketed student and the citation writer submit statements, it then goes to a "independent referee" that is not associated with public safety. The president of CSM, according to the 10.8 Vehicle Operation and Parking Policy section 6B, appoints this referee. (This policy is still "under review for final approval.")

Writing Center Increases ESL Staff

Spencer Nelson
Staff Writer

"In one week here, I've worked with writers from Bolivia, Guinea, Tanzania, Malaysia, [and] Libya," said Rose Pass, the coordinator of the Writing Center. Anyone can come into the Writing Center, located on Stratton Hall's third floor to receive help on writing of all sorts, from essays to scholarships to job applications.

This year the Writing Center increased their hours staffed by ESL specialists from 6 hours a week to 19. The four ESL specialists, Noelle Vance, Kathy Varani, Diane Witters and Judy Griebling, all have regularly scheduled hours in the Writing Center. The ESL specialists are experienced in helping international students from around the world with all sorts of problems commonly found in writing, especially in grammatical errors found in the difference between English and other languages.

"The feedback that I get is very useful," said Ana Ruiz, a graduate student at Mines whose first language is Spanish. She uses the Writing Center often to review her writing, including technical essays because "they can tell [if] what [she is] writing is clear enough for somebody who doesn't really know [the technical subject]."

The specialists enjoys helping international students. "[They get] great satisfaction in seeing a light bulb come on when a writer grasps a new idea," said Pass about the ESL specialists. "It's also a real delight to work with writers from other cultures from around the world." The Writing Center staff helps with many kinds of writing. "We get job applications, resumes, lab reports… any kind of assignment," said Judy Griebling, one of the ESL specialists.

For maximum benefit, students are encouraged to know specifically what problem they might be having with their writing. Similarly, the ESL specialists are more effective if the student has specific questions so that the specialists do not have to discuss extensively the entire writing, but rather can focus on the problem. Also, it is highly recommended that international students try to go to the ESL specialists. Although the other Writing Center staff is well equipped to help with writing problems international students may have, the ESL specialists are experienced with the problems that can be encountered while trying to master English.

The Writing Center also sets up two weekly programs to help students increase their confidence in speaking. One service is the weekly conversation practice for international students. The conversation group is designed for building communication skills for international students. This group meets on Wednesdays at 5 PM in Stratton 410. Another service, offered from 12 to 4 PM on Friday, is a speech and report practice group where students can come and practice giving presentations to increase confidence.

CSM Academy lecture

Elliot Matthews
Staff Writer

The second lecture of the Arthur Lakes Lecture Series brought forth hot issues facing the metallurgical field and provided perspectives from a prominent metallurgist and professor at CSM. Distinguished Professor of Chemical Metallurgy, Director of the Kroll Institute for Extractive Metallurgy, and Ansell Chair, Dr. Patrick Taylor, gave the October 10 talk in the Boettcher Room of the Library, entitled "Mineral Processing & Extractive Metallurgy in Recycling."

As the title indicates, Dr. Taylor's presentation delved into the general processes involved with extractive and recycling metallurgy. Social and economic challenges from these processes were also covered. One of the highlights discussed, which addressed all these elements, dealt with the logistics of recycling metals from electronic waste.

Since many of the current processes for reducing metals from motherboards and other electronic waste material can be expensive, Dr. Taylor pointed out that much of America's electronic waste is shipped to developing countries. Once shipped into developing countries such as China, crude and environmentally harmful metallurgical reduction techniques are employed.

This rising social and environmental problem also has the added sting of immense potential economic loss. Dr. Taylor cited a 2006 USGS Mineral Year Book statistic stating that the value of copper and aluminum exported via electronic waste to China alone was estimated at $1.854 trillion per year. He referred to this exportation of electronic waste as, "Gifts to China."

While Dr. Taylor proved that there is a need for increased emphasis on recycling metals, he also stated repeatedly that raw extractive metallurgy was here to stay. "If all the steel produced in 1980 was recycled, it would not meet half the current demand. New mines and mining are essential to the USA and world economy," he said.

In support of the economics behind metallurgy, Dr. Taylor also brought forth the strategic and political dynamics of essential metals. Essential metals such as steel and iron form the base of all national defenses around the world. When these natural resources are threatened or somehow made scarce, dire consequences can result. "Wars have been fought, in the past, over scarce resources… What will happen when a Central or South American country nationalizes a Chinese owned mine?"

Dr. Taylor provided both the CSM community and the lecture series a great presentation. The knowledge shared in the lecture with those attending just proved again why Mines is a frontline metallurgical institute in metallurgy.

Faculty spotlight:
Dr. Christian Shorey

Patrick Beseda
Staff Writer

Many students know Dr. Christian Shorey from their SYGN101 course, otherwise known as Earth and Environmental Systems. What they probably don't know is that Dr. Shorey is hard at work bringing the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) into a new age of education.

Shorey is actively pursuing new teaching techniques, the first of which has been a huge success; his SYGN101 podcasts. From behind a microphone and a computer, Dr. Shorey has distributed this entry level course across the globe. He has reported listeners from five continents and a large fan base in Norway. One of Shorey's hopes is to get CSM on iTunes U, the online education library for universities, by next year. He also has begun upgrading his podcasts to include video. "They can really be used as an outreach tool," said Shorey.

From behind a microphone and a computer, Dr. Shorey has distributed this entry level course across the globe

When he's not in front of a class or behind a microphone, Shorey enjoys a wide variety of hobbies. Road biking (while his mountain bike is being fixed) and playing his acoustic guitar are among his favorites. He lists Damien Marley as one of his favorite musical artists. When asked about his taste in music, Shorey said, "Everything. Well, not much country."

Dr. Shorey graduated from the University of Texas and earned his Ph.D. in geoscience at the University of Iowa. He said, "It's much more personal here," commenting on the size comparison between his alma mater and CSM. "The math and analytical skills are on a much higher level." Shorey said that his favorite aspect of the CSM are the students. "They have a good sense of humor, there's a great diversity of views, and they are willing to speak up about them."

Shorey hopes to remain based at CSM, adding meteorology and climatology to the curriculum. He wishes to travel and film the geology of the world and be able to give students a geologic tour of the globe.

Shorey added, "We are living in very interesting times. We are facing a lot of challenges; some due to recent human behavior. The skills that are being taught at the Colorado School of Mines are the skills we need for facing and overcoming the challenges." He also says hello to his co-teacher and daughter, Lily.

PATRICK BESEDA / OREDIGGER

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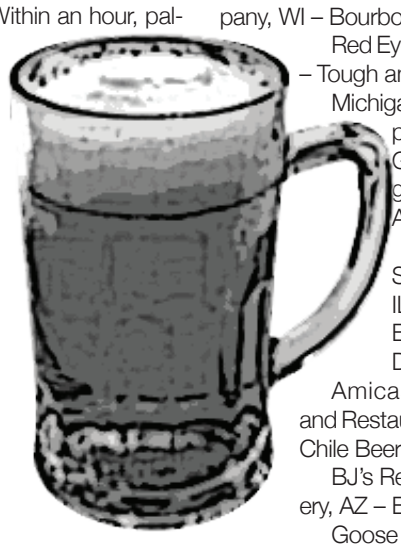
The great American beer festival

Akira Rattenbury
Staff Writer

100 lucky Orediggers donned pretzel necklaces and drank their way through over 2,800 beers last Friday - one ounce at a time. They, along with more than 46,000 other beer-loving revelers took over the Colorado Convention Center in downtown Denver last weekend for the 2008 Great American Beer Festival.

With 75 styles to choose from and more than 470 American breweries divided regionally, everyone went home a winner. Within an hour, palate fatigue and mild inebriation destroyed any chance of this writer accurately judging the field of beers. However, over 100 professional beer judges weighed in to determine the 'best of the best' in each category on Saturday, with full results at www.beertown.org.



LILY GIDDINGS / OREDIGGER

By no means exhaustive, accurate, or meaningful, here is a short list of beers I thought were delicious, unique, and worthy of at least another one-ounce sip:

Great American Restaurants, VA – Crazy Jackass Ale, Rye

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, PA – Belgian IPA

Carver Brewing Co., CO – Big Grizz Barleywine

Bohemian Brewery & Grill, UT – Cherney Bock

McClellan's Grill & Brewing Co., CO – Impale Ale, American IPA

Bottoms Up Brewery, WY – Korruption Kolsh Ale

Boulevard Brewing Co., MO - Saison

Red Rock Brewing, UT - Organic Zwickel Bier, Pilsner

Central Waters Brewing Company, WI – Bourbon Barrel Stout

Red Eye Brewing Co., WI – Tough and Tender, Malt

Michigan Brewing Company, MI – Celis Grtand Cru, Belgian Strong Pale Ale

Flossmoor Station Brewery, IL – Collaborative Evil, Belgina Strong Dark Ale

Amicas Microbrewery and Restaurant, CO – Green Chile Beer

BJ's Restaurant & Brewery, AZ – BJs Schwarzbier

Goose Island Beer Co., IL – Urban Wheat Ale, English Summer Ale

Klamath Basin Brewing Co., OR – Crater Lake Golden Ale, American Pale Ale

Horseheads Brewing Inc., NY – Pumpkin Ale

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Wednesday, November 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Ben Parker Student Center – Ballroom E
1600 Maple Street, Golden

~ Refreshments will be served ~

Please RSVP by November 7th to kmartin@mines.edu

Geek of the Week

...Patrick Kelly, Sophomore: Electrical Engineering

Emma Smith
Staff Writer

Do you have any geeky talents?

I don't think so. Some of the things that I have practiced for countless hours people consider 'geeky,' such as speed-solving puzzles and solving puzzles blindfolded.

How fast can you do a Rubik's cube?

My best average is just under 15 seconds for a standard 3x3x3 cube, although I have had several sub-10 second solves. Typically when someone asks you how fast you can solve, you tell them an average, not a single time, since an average gives a better representation of how fast you can actually solve a scrambled cube. There are several other events that I compete in as well, such as 4x4x4, 5x5x5, 3x3 Blindfolded and 3x3 One-handed.

You keep a pretty packed schedule, but what do you enjoy in your downtime?

During my downtime, I work on my hobbies. I enjoy playing all sports, getting outdoors, speed-solving puzzles, designing webpages, and playing foosball.

Do you have any nicknames?

I don't have any nicknames, but I go by 'PJK' online.

What activities or clubs are you involved in?

At the school, I am part of the chess club, the table tennis club, and have played many intramural sports. Outside of school, I am a webmaster of several large websites, and play in an ice hockey league.

What is the geekiest thing you own?

A fully functional 7x7x7 cubical puzzle, which is part of my collection of 30+ twisty puzzles.

If you could be any superhero, who would it be and why?

Hmmmm….. I don't really like any superheroes, and don't admire any.

If you were left on a desert island what two essentials would you want there?

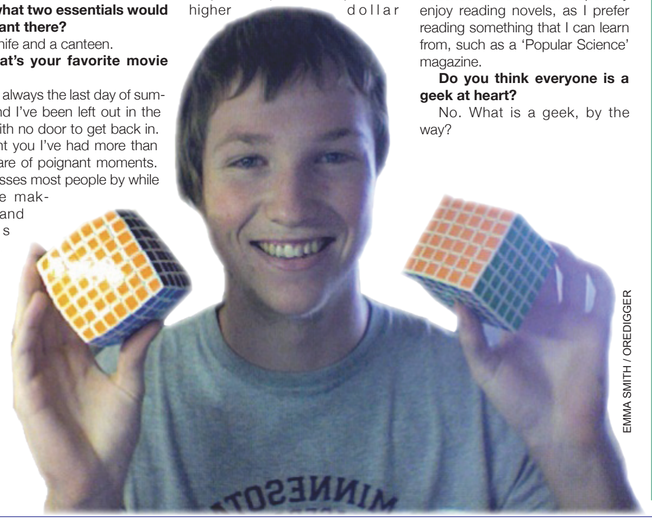
A knife and a canteen.

What's your favorite movie line?

"It's always the last day of summer and I've been left out in the cold with no door to get back in. I'll grant you I've had more than my share of poignant moments. Life passes most people by while they're making grand plans for it. Throughout my lifetime, I've left pieces of my heart here and there. And now, there's almost not enough to stay alive. But I force a smile, knowing that my ambition far exceeded my talent. There are no more white horses or pretty ladies at my door." – Johnny Depp as George Jung in 'Blow' (2001)

What is your favorite electronic gadget?

Definitely my computer. I typically don't spend money on the higher dollar phones and music players because I don't need them. My computer does everything I need.



EMMA SMITH / OREDIGGER

Do you have any phobias?

Surely I do, but I haven't found any yet.

What is your favorite movie and book?

My favorite movie is probably *The Shawshank Redemption*. My favorite book would have to be an internet marketing book called *Adsense Secrets*. I don't especially enjoy reading novels, as I prefer reading something that I can learn from, such as a 'Popular Science' magazine.

Do you think everyone is a geek at heart?

No. What is a geek, by the way?

Max Payne maxes out the action

Benjamin M. Weilert
Staff Writer

Very few movies based on video games actually live up to their hype. Most rely on being campy, or are so over the top that you can't take them seriously. However, *Max Payne* is an exception. Mark Wahlberg was a wise casting decision for his similar looks to the main character of the game, and possesses a real knack for playing the hard-core action hero. For those who are unfamiliar with the video game, this movie provides enough substance to be able to see it without being lost.

> Lupino quickly discovers the folly of bringing a knife to a gun fight

The movie starts off (a la *Sunset Blvd.*) with Max Payne (Mark Wahlberg) sinking to the cold, icy depths of a river bottom, giving a preface to the end of the film. The audience is then transported back one week to see how the plot unfolds. Max Payne is a cop who works in the Cold Case division of the New York Police Department. In his spare time, he serves as a vigilante to avenge the deaths of his family.

The few people who get close to him are mysteriously killed, prompting the sister of one of the victims, Mona Sax (Mila Kunis) to join forces with Payne and dole out vengeance on both of their behalves. Investigating the deaths leads Max to the pharmaceutical company where his wife used to work. This is where the Norse mythology comes in and starts to make things a little weird (just short of hearing Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" in the background).

It turns out the pharmaceutical company produced an addictive, hallucinogenic drug meant for giving soldiers super-strength and stamina. The drug (dubbed Valkyr), was apparently the reason why Max's wife was murdered. Now that most of the plot is out of the way, it's time for Max Payne to head into the final battle.

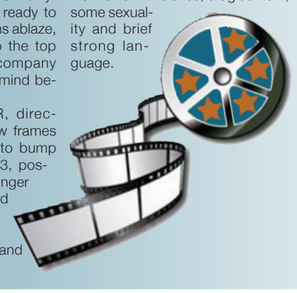
Max heads over to an abandoned facility named Ragnarok to face off against ex-solider Jack Lupino (Amaury Nolasco), whom Max thinks killed his wife. Lupino quickly discovers the folly of bringing a knife to a gun fight and Payne is dragged out to the river front to be drowned. After swimming through chunks of ice, Max takes out a few vials of Valkyr planted on him and gets ready to complete his revenge. Guns ablaze, Payne makes his way to the top of the pharmaceutical company where he kills the mastermind behind it all.

Originally rated as R, director John Moore cut a few frames from one of the scenes to bump the rating down to PG-13, possibly appealing to the younger teenagers who have played the game (rated Mature, 17+).

Max Payne feels dark and cold, which reflects the emotions left in the main character's heart. The New York City of this film is monochromatic, sticking to drab black, white and brown, thereby accentuating any color that would occasionally appear.

Wahlberg captures the essence of the tragic hero well, and Mila Kunis (who does her best Michelle Rodriquez impression throughout the film) shows the audience that she can do serious roles just as well as her comedic ones. The motif of precipitation mixes well with the embers of the Valkyrie-filled hallucinations, but almost to an extreme point of creating rain indoors, just to keep the motif alive.

The action sequences are well done and visually stunning, and the plot and characters are relatable enough that anyone should be able to enjoy this movie. Definitely go see it in theaters, as there is something special about being surrounded by action of this caliber. *Max Payne* is 1 hour, 40 minutes long and rated PG-13 for violence, drug content, some sexuality and brief strong language.



Body of Lies examines CIA

Erin Stephens
Staff Writer

A startling new addition to today's lineup of war movies, *Body of Lies* centers around the controversial presence of the United States in Iraq. Director Ridley Scott presents a liberal perception of the covert and classified use of CIA agents to unearth terrorists in the Middle East. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio as CIA operative Roger Farris and Russell Crowe as Senator Ed Hoffman, *Body of Lies* delves into the mystery of the end justifying any means necessary.

The film opens with the anti-Western speech of a high-level terrorist, Al-Saleem (Alom Abutbul), to his cronies. Initially, the reaction to the film is patriotic; the appearance of a terrorist with his plans to kill or convert any 'non-believer' is the typical portrait of any religious radical. With immediate, explosive follow-ups to the terrorist's speech, *Body of Lies* wins the initial favor of spectators.

Even with the anti-American opening, *Body of Lies* cannot convince audiences to fall in love with the snaky U.S. Senator Ed Hoffman (Crowe). From the first line, Hoffman becomes a beacon of dislike and annoyance. Hoffman is the epitome of a lying, controlling politician. The concept of a man ordering the deaths of many while picking his child up from soccer practice is more disgusting than anything happening in CIA operative Farris's world.

Roger Farris (DiCaprio), the focal point of the film, is both endearing and frustrating. Farris's devotion to getting his job done no matter the cost is one of the bigger personality flaws, especially when he comes into contact with head of the Jordan intelligence, Hani (Mark Strong). Because Farris is somewhat less of a jerk than Hoffman, the audience relates more to DiCaprio's character, even when he suggests ruining an innocent man's life to expose Al-Saleem.

DiCaprio succeeds in creating a complex character that develops throughout the movie. Farris's development, however, leads to an anti-American, or at least to an anti-politician sentiment. The love interest of the movie, Aisha (Golshifteh Farahani) appears late, and brings about most of the changes in Farris's behavior.

Ridley Scotts casting left nothing to be desired. The complex relationship between Farris and Hoffman linked directly into the expectations of two actors like DiCaprio and Crowe. In their first appearance together since *The Quick and the Dead*, the two actors make a great representation of the CIA presence in the Middle East.

Body of Lies may have a rippling effect on the industry today. With the conflict in the Middle East as its center piece, the film is inherently controversial. With its liberal spin on the problems arising, the film may echo through to the American public as a sign of dishonesty and ruthlessness in our approach to the war in Iraq.

The film overall was well made, but lacked the ability to relate to the average person. *Body of Lies* emphasized the extreme cases of survival and bashes the need for surveillance and intelligence. However, the take on politicians is startling honest. It is worthwhile to view, yet only with the knowledge that the film is biased.

Non-Geek of the Week

...Kevin Allen, Sophomore: Civil Engineering

Benjamin Johnson
Staff Writer

[Oredigger] Do you like sports?

[Kevin] I do.

Which one is your favorite?

Baseball, basketball and football are my favorite sports to watch and play.

What are your favorite teams?

The Denver Broncos is my favorite team overall. I also like the Colorado Rockies and the Duke Blue Devils.

Who is going to win the Super Bowl?

The Denver Broncos and that would be my answer any year.

Do you play any sports at Mines?

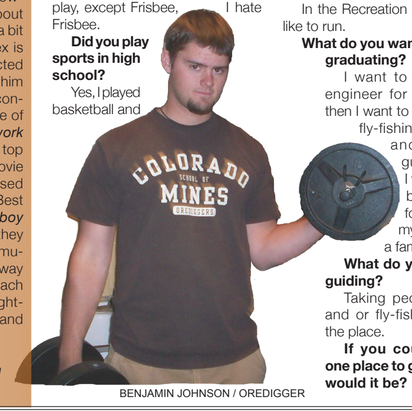
No, only intramural sports.

Which intramural sports do you play?

Flag football, volleyball and softball. Really whatever ones I can play, except Frisbee, I hate Frisbee.

Did you play sports in high school?

Yes, I played basketball and baseball for all four years, and football for my senior year.



BENJAMIN JOHNSON / OREDIGGER

What are your favorite activities?

Hanging with God, fly-fishing, hunting (it also has to be fly-fishing and not just fishing), sports and being outside. I also like hanging out with my fiancé. Another one of my favorite things is drinking coffee.

What are you most attracted to in your fiancé?

Everything for sure, especially her pretty blue eyes.

What is something normal on campus that you participate in?

I work out, do intramural sports and participate in Campus Crusade.

What is your favorite exercise?

Curls for the girls, baby! One girl actually.

Where do you like to work out on campus?

In the Recreation Center, and I like to run.

What do you want to do after graduating?

I want to work as an engineer for awhile, and then I want to start my own fly-fishing/bow shop and do some guiding. Also, I want to enjoy being married for the rest of my life and have a family.

What do you mean by guiding?

Taking people hunting and or fly-fishing all over the place.

If you could choose one place to guide, where would it be?

I would love to be a fly-fishing guide in the Bahamas or Costa Rica or something like that. Anywhere that is warm and tropical.

Why did you come to Mines?

Physics 2. No, I'm just joking. I hate physics. I came to Mines because I want to be a Civil Engineer and I figured Mines would be the best place to do that.

What is your favorite type of automobile?

I'm not that much into vehicles, but something that has four-wheel drive and can go up into the mountains, like a truck.

Where is the best place to hang out on campus?

The coffee place or in the Recreation Center.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to play football in my living room with my roommates, I like to cook, play NCAA 2009 and play with my dog, Champ.

What kind of dog is Champ?

He is a foxhound border collie mix. He's the coolest dog ever.

If you were able to solve any problem in the world, what would it be?

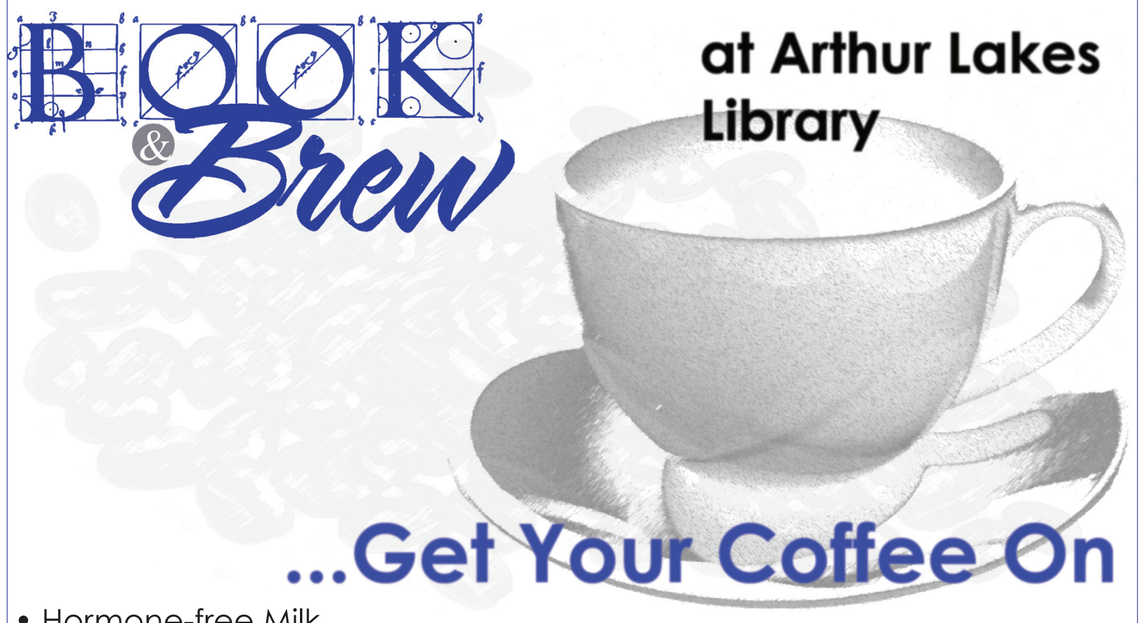
I have a heart for kids of all ages, but mostly teenagers. If I could solve a problem that was dealing with that, I would find some way to teach kids about God and the Bible in a practical and genuine way and to help them become responsible leaders in their generation.

What is the riskiest thing you have ever done?

Once when I was little I rode my tricycle off the roof of our pump house into one of those little kiddy pools.

How did that turn out?

It was fine, no injuries.



- Hormone-free Milk
- Do you work on Campus on Saturdays? You can now get your AFPP (afternoon face plant prevention) at the Book & Brew from noon - 4:00PM
- Proudly Serving Allegro Coffee & Tea
- Organic Espresso Drinks

Must See Movies: Institutionalized

Benjamin M. Weilert
Staff Writer

Now that midterms are over, many students are asking themselves if it could be any worse. Being trapped in a room with no hope of escape until a lesson has been learned seems all too common from tests these days, but these scenarios are no where near the torture that can happen in other 'institutions.' For instance, insane asylums and prisons. These two institutions remind college students they are far better off. Here are three movies that examine the inner workings of capital punishment and psychological conditioning:

1. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975)

Jack Nicholson gives one of his best performances in this story about life inside an insane asylum. R.P. McMurphy (Nicholson) thinks that he can avoid prison by pretending he's insane. Unfortunately, life in the mental ward is more like a totalitarian dictatorship under the control of Nurse Mildred Ratched (Louise Fletcher). McMurphy tries to liven things up by giving back some freedoms to his fellow inmates that have been taken away or forgotten. As the movie progresses, the audience begins to see that perhaps these inmates are more misunderstood than actually insane. Winner of the Best Picture Oscar (as well as four others, including Best Actor) the year it was released, and placed in the top third of the American Film Institute's (AFI) top 100, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* is a provocative look into the world of mental health.

2. *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994)

A new addition to AFI's top 100 list in 2007, *The Shawshank Redemption* chalks up a win for intelligence in the never-ending battle of brains vs. brawn. Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) is sent to prison for killing his wife and her lover. While in prison, he meets "Red" (Morgan Freeman) and forges a friendship with the prisoner for life. Due to his superior intellect, Andy survives life in prison by helping the guards with their taxes, balancing the prison's books for the warden and keeping his fellow inmates occupied with a variety of activities. Knowing that he is innocent, Andy doesn't complain about being wrongfully imprisoned, but instead works on an elaborate scheme for many years that eventually sets him free. This clever work based on a short story by Stephen King is deep and enthralling and a definite "must see".

3. *A Clockwork Orange* (1971)

A Clockwork Orange is a look into capital punishment in a dystopian future, and may not be for everyone. Alex (Malcom McDowell) is the leader of a gang that goes about England assaulting random people with "a bit of the old ultra-violence." Eventually, Alex is captured by the authorities and is subjected to psychological conditioning to make him a meek and cowardly individual when confronted with violence or sex. Another one of Stanley Kubrick's masterworks, *A Clockwork Orange* resides in the bottom half of AFI's top 100 list. However, be warned that this movie is one of only two movies to be released under an X rating and nominated for Best Picture (the other being *Midnight Cowboy* (1969)). Most will probably agree that they won't be able to listen to some classical music or "Singin' in the Rain" quite the same way after watching this movie. If you can stomach it, *A Clockwork Orange* provides a thought-provoking look into capital punishment and should be seen at least once.

For Homework – See *The Green Mile* (1999)

Principally Irked

Just like magic, the economy disappears

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Opinion Columnist

How do we live with an economic structure that is strapped to speculation and burdened by wild expectations? If a six-year-old story about the bankruptcy of United Airlines can touch off a 25-minute-long frenzy, resulting in a 75 % loss in stock value, can we really say that our market-based sham is a functioning economy?

If we try to artificially increase wealth without actually doing any work, what happens when investors wake up to realize that they are standing on air? Is the fall worth the rise? Why are we obsessed with making the transfer of wealth a game?

Can our government really justify the citizen-funded insurance of companies and individuals who gamble on the values of assets? What country am I living in? As CNBC's Jim "They know nothing!" Cramer of "Mad Money" remarked after the bailout of AIG, we're all socialists now.

> ... but this is like saying a magician's hat can prevent the extinction of rabbits

The only necessity to preventing failure of investment banks and foreclosure of homes is the preservation of our current tax-drunk budget structure. Is there no accountability? What ever happened to being aware of risk and financial situations and making investment decisions accordingly?

The unfortunate fact is that if this country was a business, we would have folded long ago. America has used its ideologies and military force to compensate for serious economic failures. To be fair, we are pioneers in an unprecedented experiment of freedom, but usually pioneers use common sense. Only now are we waking up to the potential and realized consequences of an economy based on a fairy tale.

Capitalism is admirable, but there are fundamental flaws with our misbranded economy and its vaunted economist-storytellers. Deficit spending is a joke, creation of wealth is a misnomer, and market averages track merely opinion and guesswork.

I believe that our current economic problems are rooted in the existence of currency. Before you laugh, consider this: the basis of economics is that we have a way to measure the delivery and purchase of goods and services. Money transfer and investment, especially in a global economy like what exists today, should be, and is in actuality, very simple.

> If we try to artificially increase wealth without actually doing any work, what happens when investors wake up to realize that they are standing on air?

Investment is a fancy way of saying wagering. It is a bet, based on statistics and other information, that an entity will make money and grow. Myths about the economy cause some to put great and foolishly-placed faith in the free market. Wealth doesn't just happen; it's the benefit of a wager won, at the expense of purchases or a wager lost.

Somehow we've arrived at a point where we expect fantastical things from the market and where our economic views constrain the way we live. The American economy as a whole has treated debt like currency, equity like wealth and fiscal responsibility as optional.

This economic crisis is unlike anything the world has ever seen. Not only is it global, but it is the effect of the largest transfer of wealth ever. This is not the Great Depression. Statistically, it is not as bad, but when you consider the challenges of the current situation, it is just as terrifying.

> Ladies and gentlemen, it is time to go back to basics. It is time for all of us to face reality and live within our means.

Money flow is the lifeblood of any economy. How then, does the economy run if most money is concentrated in a few places? There has been much talk about the freezing of the credit markets. In other words, the stoppage of money flow. The short answer is to create more money, but this is like saying a magician's hat can prevent the extinction of rabbits. It would only postpone the problem to a future time.

The only fix for the current crisis is a radical change. The definition of radical in this case is to the root or fundamental. Spreading wealth around like a bunch of Marxists or propping up entities with borrowed capital is at best a patchwork fix. We need to return to basics. A redefinition of our economy as a truly conservative system is the only savior.

America must build wealth in the only way possible: producing it through work and innovation. Currently, much of our wealth is on loan from China and other countries who hold our debt. What does that say for the future of America?

Whatever became of the idea that we must live within our means? When did we as a country discard the ethic that hard work produces true wealth? Who decided that living with debt was a necessary evil? If there's anything that life has taught me, it is that there is no such thing as a necessary evil.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is time to go back to basics. It is time for all of us to face reality and live within our means. And it is time for us to allow those who refuse to face the consequences.

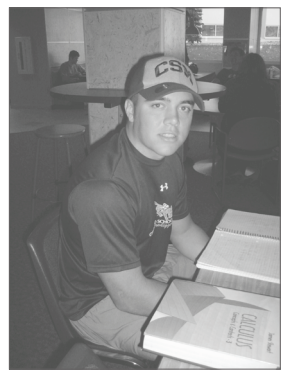
In America, we embrace individual freedoms, but we understand that those freedoms come with incredible responsibilities. The need is now to build an economy with a conscience, and to stop expecting the current market framework to work just like magic.

Minds at Mines

Roby Brost
Staff Writer

Foam fingers and t-shirts abounded this past week at Mines. Homecoming Miner League sports turned out to support this spirited tradition, and students, faculty and alumni showed off their pride in Mines through the many activities offered. Even the Golden community got into the Homecoming spirit as floats paraded through town. So what is it that the students had to say?

"I thought that Homecoming was pretty awesome. I mean, we got to build a float! We may not have won, but we did have a ton of fun building the thing…"
Mich Aelwhittington

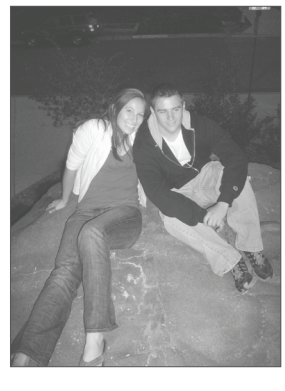


"I'm a freshman on the football team, so I didn't really get out to see many of the events that were offered. Still, I thought that it was a really great showing at the football game. That was really cool."
Bill Mercer

"It was such a busy week… The M 'relighting' was really pretty neat. It may have been the only thing I got around to seeing, but it was worth it. The band wasn't bad either."
Anhvu Le

"Homecoming is always a lot of fun. The football game especially was just that much better because of all the support and school spirit everyone showed at the Homecoming game."
Shelby Hollmaier

"Well, I went to the band. There weren't many people there, but the band was decent. Not phenomenal, but good. To be perfectly honest, I felt that Homecoming could have been better advertised. I didn't even realize that it was Homecoming until I was by at the concert. Someone even asked if I was going to the Powder-puff game, and I hadn't even realized we had teams."
Kyle Bahr



"Homecoming was really neat. I thought that the coolest part was all the alumni that came back to support our spectacular football team at the Homecoming game. I even saw my high school physics teacher, Mr. Boyles, with his wife and little girl cheering at the game."
Jordan Shoemaker

Letter to the Editor

I have some very serious issues with an article in the most recent Oredigger edition. The article, Vice-Presidential Debate, took a deliberate stab at the Christian faith, and has humiliated the reputation of the Oredigger as a respectable newspaper. The last few sentences of the last paragraph state ".....what kind of reality someone who believes that man and dinosaur co-existed six thousand years ago would bring to Washington D.C. remains unseen". This comment is in reference to Governor Palin's comments about bringing a little bit of reality to DC.

This sort of low blow to an opposing worldview is pitiful, and the editors of the Oredigger should be ashamed for allowing this article to be put in as such. Is this the environment you wish to promote on campus? An environment where the most read newspaper on the Mines campus promotes enmity between contradictory worldviews? I speak as one whose beliefs have been made fun of, and this sort of teasing towards the beliefs of others should not be allowed.

Enough ranting on my part. Suffice it to say, this sort of thing goes against everything that the Mines leadership is attempting to do by encouraging diversity. Whether you are Muslim, Christian, Atheist, Jewish or Buddist, your beliefs should not be made fun of in the public eye.

-Justin Tappan

Conservative reaction

Presidential debates: round three

William Everson
Staff Writer

A maverick turned attack dog, a messiah effectively marginalized. Such were the drastic changes in direction displayed during the third and final Presidential debate. This was the McCain performance Republicans had been craving, since John McCain finally took off the gloves and pulled no punches.

His previous old, tired, sour grandpa persona was replaced by the grizzled, maverick, bulldog we all know Sen. McCain to be. In contrast, Barack Obama sounded like a broken record, reiterating his prefabricated rhetoric with steadfast determination while subsequently stumbling when forced to improvise the answers to unscripted questions.

Sen. McCain dominated the evening, outperforming and outmaneuvering Sen. Obama at every turn. As McCain's dominance manifested, Sen. Obama became increasingly frazzled, so much so that it almost reached the point we saw in his debate with Hilary Clinton.

Sen. McCain engaged in largely ineffective tiffs with Sen. Obama over his radical associations (ACORN, William Ayers), associations that many Republicans hoped would raise questions over Sen. Obama's character.

Though Sen. McCain failed to effectively chastise Sen. Obama for his radical friends, he did effectively and powerfully distance himself from President Bush (one of Sen. Obama's primary attacks). In the best line of the night, he said, "Sen. Obama, I am not Pres. Bush. If you wanted to run against Pres. Bush, you should have run four years ago."

> His previous old, tired, sour grandpa persona was replaced by the grizzled, maverick, bulldog we all know Sen. McCain to be.

The topic of Wednesday night's debate was domestic policy. Ranging in topics from tax policy, healthcare reform and education reform, the debate followed an open question format that encouraged the candidates to ask questions to each other.

On the issue of tax policy, I had difficulty determining which candidate would lower everyone's taxes more. Sen. Obama is so good at pretending to be a 'tax cutter,' I almost forgot that he intends to raise taxes on everyone except the middle class. His pretentious tax rhetoric is not eloquence, it is deception.

In reality, Sen. Obama's tax policy is designed to "spread the wealth around." He believes that the rich (i.e. people/businesses earning more than $250,000 a year) "can afford to pay a little more [in taxes] so that ordinary families… [can receive] a break."

> Sen. Obama became increasingly frazzled, so much so that it almost reached the point we saw in his debate with Hilary Clinton.

This is the means by which he intends to raise the more than $700 billion in new spending that he proposes. This is fine with him since he does not "mind paying a little more [in taxes]."

Contrastingly, Sen. McCain believes that a tax cut for everyone (the middle class, corporations, the rich, the poor and small businesses) is a more viable tax policy. Sen. McCain repudiated Sen. Obama's tax plan, saying, "Now of all times in America, we need to cut people's taxes. We need to encourage business, create jobs; not spread the wealth around."

When it came to the issue of healthcare, Sen. Obama thinks that government regulation, oversight and programs will save the day. To lower healthcare costs, Sen. Obama proposes mandating insurers to cover pre-existing conditions, mandating digital records, implementing health care for the uninsured, compulsory negotiation with drug companies and funneling more money into preventative care.

Sen. McCain wants "to leave money in your pocket" to pay for health insurance via a $5,000 tax credit for families. He also proposes similar digital records mandates and increased funding for preventative care. When it comes down to it, Sen. McCain said, "Sen. Obama wants government to do the job. [Where as] I want… you to do the job."

On the issue of public education reform, Sen. Obama thinks more money is the solution, even though, (as moderator Bob Schieffer pointed out) America spends more per capita on education than any other nation on earth.

Sen. McCain, on the other hand, believes choice and competition will solve our nation's educational woes. He proposes more charter schools, rewards for quality teachers, and school vouchers, not more money.

It has taken two debates and months of campaigning for Sen. McCain to finally find his political backbone; though I wonder if it matters at all. It may be just too little, too late.

Beating the odds

Zach Aman
Guest Columnist

In 2003, ***Oredigger*** editor Bryce Lakamp wrote that, without a significant change in the organization's path, "it is possible there will not be a paper next year." I believe that this evaluation was wholly accurate for its time.

Today, however, we see a very different institutional and organizational environment. ***The Oredigger*** has grown by over 800% in the past two years, achieving staff, budget and readership levels that were heretofore deemed "unobtainable."

> The Oredigger has grown by over 800% in the past two years, achieving staff, budget and readership levels that were heretofore deemed "unobtainable."

Many have inquired as to the catalyst that made this dramatic transition possible. I believe this change was realized through the literal thousands of hours invested by student staff members over the past two years, through the immeasurable assistance of many departments and offices across campus, and through the strategic vision and dedication of the ***Oredigger*** Editorial Board.

The catalyst, however, was a profound question that emerged from the Editorial Board two years ago; "why can't a stellar applied science and engineering institution have a stellar media organization?"

> Colorado School of Mines now hosts one of the most successful – if not the most successful – student newspapers on the Front Range

With this vision in mind, the team embarked on a two-year journey that has led the organization to the significance we see today. Colorado School of Mines now hosts one of the most successful – if not ***the*** most successful – student newspapers on the Front Range.

In achieving this regional excellence, we must now turn our attention to sustainability. To accomplish this, the Editorial Board has developed a comprehensive transition plan to carefully and thoughtfully welcome the next organizational leader.

Marked by the publication of this edition, the ***Oredigger*** is now in the hands of Sara Post, a most trusted and capable colleague. Sara was on the core team that developed our 5-Year Strategic Plan and has the vision and skill set to elevate this organization from regional to national excellence. She is joined by an outstanding group of individuals on the Editorial Board and will work tirelessly to continue serving the greater CSM community.

Accomplishing this national vision requires continued investment from each constituency of the CSM community. This charge, albeit ambitious, will ultimately be realized through communication to and from the organization. As a reader, I encourage you to continue interacting with other readers. As a student, I encourage you to contact Sara and her team to share your thoughts and provide suggestions for what you would like to read. As a CSM community member, I encourage you to continually think critically about the true potential of our institution, writing ***Letters to the Editor*** and contributing article comments through our website.

As the Editor-in-Chief that has been privileged to experience this growth, I ask you to share my continued belief in the potential of this organization. Together, we have accomplished an end that was previously considered "unobtainable." Together, we can succeed in providing the CSM community with a media organization of national excellence.

Liberal reaction

Presidential debates: rounds two and three

Michael Rose
Staff Writer

The 'town hall' format of the debates was disappointing in many respects. Not only did both candidates disrespect the rules they themselves had created for the debate, but they truly insulted every person who asked a question. As politicians do, they both sidestepped questions, but what truly raised my ire was even the simple questions received cryptic answers that only served to degrade one another and place themselves on a taller platform.

> ...even the simple questions received cryptic answers that only served to degrade one another and place themselves on a taller platform

Overall, not much was said in the second debate. McCain continued to repeat the same tired rhetoric again and again, and his favorite catchphrase, "My friends," returned again to patronize the audience. McCain even awkwardly patted the back of a man formerly in the armed forces as he dodged his question.

The third presidential debate was far more interesting. With Senator Obama pulling ahead in the polls, Senator McCain showed his campaign's desperation by blatantly attacking Obama during the final presidential debate. Obama excelled during this debate, staying calm and letting McCain hang himself with his own rope, as it were. With excellent quotes such as, "Senator Obama will tell you, in the -- as the extreme environmentalists do, it has to be safe," in regards to nuclear power, McCain proved his Bush-esque prowess on the debate floor.

In another absolutely brilliant move by McCain, he more or less accused Obama of voting to let babies die. In the words of McCain, "'health of the mother', that's been stretched by the pro-abortion movement..." I found it absolutely insulting that those supporting pro-choice are branded as pro-abortion by the McCain-Palin campaign. Clearly, John McCain feels that those who do support mother's choice, especially in cases of rape, incest or danger to the mother, are supporting abortion rather than supporting the choice and health of the mother.

"I am proud of the people that come to our rallies." Oh really, Senator McCain? The same supporters that shout out "Kill him!", "Traitor!" and other inflammatory remarks? To McCain's credit, he has attempted to stop his rallies from becoming cesspools of hate.

Joe the Plumber made a surprise appearance as well, being a major talking point in the final debates. Both candidates delivered their stump speeches to Joe the Plumber, the new symbol of the 2008 Presidential Election, Obama once again reassuring 'Joe' that he won't be fined for being unable to provide health care to his workers. Both then went on to talk about their plans to spread around the wealth.

One of the most potentially frightening ideas that McCain has mentioned at both the second and third debate is a complete freeze of federal spending. In the words of Obama, he wants to take a hatchet to the federal budget. Does this also stop funding for programs like the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the funding on which so many students rely? What qualifies as an essential program? Obama's plan sounds far more intelligent, which again in Obama's words, uses a scalpel to help balance the federal budget.

> Obama excelled during this debate, staying calm and letting McCain hang himself with his own rope

In either case, with all three presidential debates concluded, Barack Obama has emerged as the winner of the debates, according to polls. According to a CNN poll, fifty-eight percent believe Obama won the debate, and thirty-one percent for McCain. Eighty percent of viewers say McCain attacked his opponent more during the debate. With little over two weeks remaining before the election, Obama appears to be leading. November 4th is looming, and on that day, we'll see who wins the real race.

CSM volleyball is impenetrable

Elise Goggin
Staff Writer

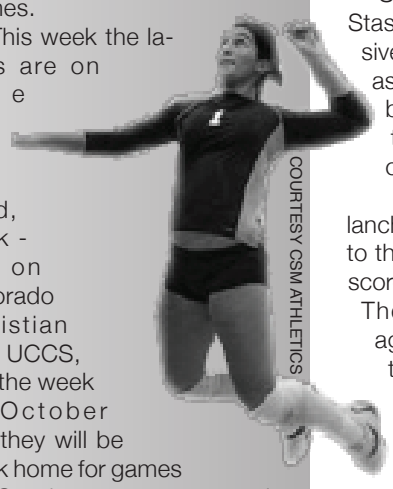
Last Friday night, the spirited crowd in the stands of Lockridge Arena began "the slow clap" as sophomore Elizabeth Serra-Hsu stepped to the line to serve the match point of the fourth game against Fort Lewis College. After a short rally, Amanda Massey sealed the victory with a line drive kill and the fists of her teammates shot into the air.

The win over the Fort was huge for Colorado School of Mines (CSM), but it didn't come easily. After winning the first two games, CSM was in control, but Fort Lewis came out of the locker room ready to play. The Skyhawks took the third game 25-15. In the fourth and final game, the lead was passed back and forth, and the fans were kept on their toes through several long rallies. It wasn't until the score was tied 18-18 that CSM was able to push to a comfortable lead and capture the win.

In the end, the satisfied crowd was able to celebrate with an enthusiastic round of the school song. This victory moved the Lady Oredigger's into third place in the east division of the RMAC with a record of 8-4.

Perhaps the strongest attribute of this year's team is its defense. CSM is ranked number one in blocks, led by junior Kaity Edminston. Edminston is at the top of the individual standings with 86 total blocks and junior Tara Schwein follows not too far behind, ranked 5th with 69 blocks. The team's defensive strength is further highlighted by the fact that both Kirstie Buntung and Elizabeth Serra-Hsu have previously been awarded with RMAC defensive player of the week.

While the stats are impressive, the best part about the team's defensive tenacity is that it makes the game even more enjoyable for the spectators. Long rallies, solid digs and impenetrable blocks always bring the stands to their feet. Overall, the atmosphere in the gym is great. Guys with painted chests and crazy cheers made it worthwhile for everyone, so be sure to try to make it to one of the remaining games.


COURTESY CSM ATHLETICS

This week the ladies are on the road, taking on Colorado Christian and UCCS, but the week of October 26, they will be back home for games on October 28, 29, 31 and November 1. Their opponents include Chadron, Fort Hays, Regis and the number 1 team in the RMAC, Nebraska Kearney.

"Super" Joe Sakic still super after 20 seasons

LILY GIDDINGS / OREDIGGER

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

To paraphrase the words of Mark Twain, the rumors of the demise of Joe Sakic were greatly exaggerated.

The 39-year old Avalanche center contemplated retirement after his last, injury-riddled season. Last season, Sakic scored a career-low 40 points, albeit in just 44 games. Expectations were tempered for Sakic as well as his team, which lost its starting goalie Jose Theodore to free agency. Sakic is at the age at which most NHL players, even Wayne Gretzky, lose step and trail off in production. But while the Avalanches struggled early on, their star center has flourished, racking up a goal and seven assists in just five games.

Sakic's future replacement, Paul Stastny, has been equally impressive, tallying one goal and eight assists this season. Those numbers put Sakic and Stastny at the top of the league in terms of points and assists.

However, the Colorado Avalanches have played very similarly to the Denver Broncos, they have scored high but are lax on defense. The team's 20 goals scored against 19 allowed have led the team to a 2-3-0 record on the season. The main reason for this comes down to Peter Budaj and Andrew Raycroft, the team's replacements for Theodore.

Budaj was the team's default starting goaltender for the season as he has been the starter for the team on-and-off for the past few seasons. Budaj has been serviceable if unspectacular in his three seasons with the Avalanches. Raycroft, meanwhile, was a one-year wunderkind in Boston, posting a 2.05 Goals Against average (GAA) with 29 wins in his rookie season during 2003-2004. However, Raycroft has failed to live up to those stats every season since, averaging a 3.30 GAA ever since while playing with Boston and Toronto. Together, Raycroft and Budaj's resumes pale in comparison to Theodore, a former Vezina trophy winner.

Budaj started Colorado's first three games, all of which were one-goal losses. None stung more than the second game, a 3-2 loss to Edmonton in which Budaj gave up the game-winning goal with just 5.4 seconds left in regulation time.

After the team's early struggle, new head coach Tony Grannato benched Budaj in favor of Raycroft for two games. Raycroft pulled off an easy 5-2 win in his first game, facing only 18 shots against the Philadelphia Flyers. He followed that up on Saturday with a 5-4 victory against the Dallas Stars. However, Raycroft let the Stars back into the game after taking a 5-2 lead into the second intermission. Raycroft let up two third-period goals and needed the help of video review to disallow a third that went in off of Brendan Morrow's glove.

So the Avalanches remain in the same situation as they have been in since Patrick Roy's retirement. They maintain one of the NHL's best offenses, but have yet to find a suitable heir to Roy's throne. Without a reliable backstop, the team cannot quite keep up with teams like their old rivals, the Detroit Red Wings, the reigning Stanley Cup Champions.

At least the team still has Sakic, silently rising up in the record books as 8th all-timer in points and likely to surpass Mario Lemieux late in the season, health permitting. Without a shakeup at goalie, the Avalanches cannot quite play like they did in the 90's, but with the way he's playing right now, they may have a few more seasons to reach that level with Super Joe.

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Fool's Gold

"Falling back on your homework face."

Sarah Palin appears on Saturday Night Live

Mike Stone
Critic

With Sarah Palin's cameo appearance on Saturday Night Live last, umm, well- Saturday, it is extremely apparent that she has no future in acting. In the appearance, cast members of the long-running show kept confusing her with Tina Fey, the actress who impersonates Palin, in full makeup.

In this not-so-funny sketch, audience members only laughed when they had to - in surprise or an awkward silence. School of Mines student, Adam Sprouse, had to say about the sketch, "Do you think college football is still on?"

Even more horrid than failed jokes was Sarah Palin's ability to keep her report during the infamous "Live from New York, it's Saturday Night!" script line. Normally, cast members jump at the chance to let loose, build in volume and make that last "Niggggghhhhhttttt!!!" last 10 seconds or so. Palin simply said the line in a monotone, squeaky, falsetto voice. Unfortunately, Tina Fey's impersonation would have blown her out of the water.

In related news, Democrats across America are flipping their ticket to the McCain campaign. Democrat Zack Mills revealed, "We finally can elect a leader we KNOW can't lie to us! She's just so horrible at acting, we'll know the truth all the time!"

Obama campaign representative showed no signs of fear as once loyal voters switched in unison to McCain on Sunday. "The Obama campaign has made the promise to use simple verbiage and always tell the truth to the American People. That's what they deserve. Then again, you don't know if these previous sentences are even true! Wait, don't write that down. This is supposed to be off the record! Stop it!" said recently fired campaign official Debbie Downer.

MIKE STONE / OREDIGGER

Palin- Even the disgusted man behind her hates her acting.

In response to this voter switch now called, "The Parting of the Blue Sea", an old video of Barack Obama in an elementary school play has "accidentally" leaked its way onto YouTube. "Why was he 41 and in a play with elementary school kids? The plot was horrible too." commented Republican Joe Nikojuto. "He's just too believable in his commercials, so we can never really trust him."

Physics curriculum to receive update

Unequal forces push stature up

Janeen Neri
Physics Nut

The Physics Department recently approved sweeping measures that they hope will improve student interest and learning in Physics 1 and 2. "You know, we have the fourth-best physics program in the nation, but that just means there's three schools we still need to wallop," said physics professor Floyd B. Deming.

Over the years, the physics program at Colorado School of Mines has been praised for getting students involved through lab-like "studios" and participation during lecture. "All these things have really helped [the students] engage more in the material, and that's when learning happens," said Deming, "so if *some* of this stuff is good, how good will *loads* of it be?"

Among the more controversial of the measures proposed is a retrofit of the LON-CAPA website. It generates and grades the homework problems for Physics 1 and 2 classes. Specifically, the changes affect the "red boxes" that LON-CAPA displays when the student enters the incorrect answer. Concerned that the boxes do not provide sufficient motivation for the students, the Physics Department is recommending some additional negative reinforcement, such as loud sirens, flashing lights and "perhaps, if we can work out a few technical issues, a boxing glove emerging from the screen to knock some sense into them," Deming said.

Physics students appear to be less enthusiastic than their professors about the new design. "Are you ***kidding***?" asked a freshman, who asked not to be named, "I mean, as it is, I literally break out in hives around those red fire alarm boxes! Are they trying to make us more unbalanced than we already are?"

George Atwood, who participated in a special pilot class last spring, agreed. "Um, well, I kind of… uh, it got to where I psychologically broke down whenever I got a wrong answer – then if I got a right answer, I passed out a couple times out of relief. It was completely traumatic. I switched from a physics major to chemistry within two weeks of starting."

On the other hand, a few students were unconcerned. "I say if they get a red box, they deserve it," said Kurt Vrecher, "personally, I don't think I've ever gotten one, but they can't be ***that*** traumatic. This should help them not make so many mistakes."

Given the initial mixed reception, the Physics Department is asking for student feedback as the new design is rolled out. "Look for a clicker question about it two or three weeks from now," said Deming.

Grammatical lawsuit filed against Apple

Ben Makuh
Techno Analyst

D.C.- In an unprecedented lawsuit brought before the Supreme Court last week, the Society for the Promotion of Good Grammar (SPOGG) sought $80 billion in damages from Apple, claiming that Apple "is turning the English language into an iLanguage, and in doing so is responsible for the hospitalization of numerous English professors, teachers, and other 'grammarians' suffering complications from malgrammariphobia."

"I simply could not suffer any longer under the grammatically incorrect tyranny of Apple any longer," said Taka Wright, a SPOGG spokeswoman. "When I saw the recent advertisement for 'The funnest iPod ever,' I promptly fainted, then decided that neither I, nor any of my colleagues in the profession, could capitulate to the degradation of our grammatical joys by companies such as Apple that try to appeal to the newer generations." Wright continued with other deplorable examples of grammatical crime that Apple had committed.

"Unfortunately, this trend of verbing nouns and adjectivizing verbs is all too synecdochical of a greater drift of the English language we have perceived in the culture at large," commented I.R. Speekgood, professor of linguistic studies and socio-politico-etymological derivation research at Lancaster University in the UK. "The true object of my shuddering scorn, however, is the so-called 'iProduct.' The iPod, for example, is in no way a semantic construction; why not call it the Musicological Enchiridion? I am quite certain that a descriptive name such as that would earn appreciation with popular culture immediately."

Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple, weighed in on the whole issue. "iReally was honestly caught off guard by this whole thing. We were just designing the next newest iPod line ever, and we didn't see it coming."

While the court has not reached any decision on this decidedly odd case, speculative analysts have stated that if SPOGG were to win this case, many other companies such as Google and the myriad other startups riding on the web 2.0 boom would soon crumble. Xanga? Flickr? Meebo? Does that mean *anything*?

iGrammar.

the funnest lawsuit ever.

BEN MAKUH / OREDIGGER

sudoku

	3		9	5		6		
5	6	1			4		9	2
9		2		6				
1							8	6
4			2		9			1
8	5							7
				2		1		9
2	1		6			7	4	8
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Puzzle by websudoku.com

solution

6	1	8	3	9	2	5	7	4
4	9	7	1	5	6	3	8	2
3	5	2	8	7	4	1	6	9
1	8	6	7	3	9	2	4	5
5	3	4	2	6	8	7	9	1
2	7	9	4	1	5	8	3	6
9	4	1	5	8	7	6	2	3
8	6	3	9	2	1	4	5	7
7	2	5	6	4	3	9	1	8

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CSM CLUB & IM SPORTS

INTRAMURAL DEADLINES

BADMINTON: 10/30
TOURNEY SUN. 11/12

BOWLING: 10/30
-4 PER TEAM
TOURNEY WED. 11/5

SWIM MEET: 11/13
MEET DATE: SUN. 11/16 @6PM

CLUB GAMES

WOMEN'S SOCCER
SUNDAY 10/26 @ 1PM
NORTH IM

SUNDAY 11/2 @ 1PM
NORTH IM

WOMEN'S RUGBY
SUNDAY 10/26 @ 3PM
NORTH IM

DODGEBALL: 11/13
TOURNEY BEGINS
MON. 11/17

GUITAR HERO: 11/20
TOURNAMEMT 11/24 @ 6PM

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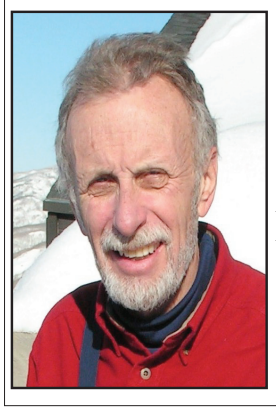

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